

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) A pipe clamp made of plastics material comprising at least first and second parts having a pivotal connection to allow said at least first and second parts to be opened for receiving a pipe, and a nut and bolt which can be tightened to secure the clamp on the pipe, one of said parts having ends and having a bifurcation at one end through which the bolt passes, wherein ~~said end mates directly in contact with the nut when it is tightened on the bolt so as to limit opening of the bifurcation.~~ projections are provided on the bifurcation and corresponding indentations are provided in the nut so as to mate the bifurcation to the nut when the nut and bolt are tightened.

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A clamp, made of plastics material, for clamping pipework, comprising:

- a first clamp member;
- a second clamp member;
- a bolt; and
- a nut

such that when the first clamp member is attached to the second clamp member and the bolt is attached to the first clamp member the nut can be tightened onto the bolt so as to clamp pipework between the first and second clamp members, wherein the second clamp member comprises an aperture defined by prongs and into which the bolt

can be moved laterally, the nut mates directly in contact with a seat integrally formed on the second clamp member and tightening of the nut onto the second clamp member prevents splaying of the prongs, wherein projections are provided on the seat and corresponding indentations are provided in the nut so as to mate the prongs to the nut when the nut and bolt are tightened.

24. (previously presented) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein tightening of the nut onto the second clamp member exerts an inward force on the prongs, towards the bolt.

25. (previously presented) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein the second clamp member comprises an open-sided, U-shaped aperture defined by prongs and in use the bolt can be moved laterally in and out of the aperture and the nut is tightened axially onto the bolt.

26. (previously presented) The claim of Claim 23, wherein the first and second clamp members are pivotally connected at respective first ends.

27. (previously presented) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein the bolt is separate from the first clamp member and comprises a retention means and the first clamp member comprises an aperture through which the bolt passes such that when the bolt has been passed through the aperture removal of the bolt from the first clamp member is resisted by the retention means.

28. (previously presented) The clamp of Claim 27, wherein the retention means comprises a resilient, angled projection so the bolt can easily be inserted into the aperture but is more difficult to remove once inserted.

29. (previously presented) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein the bolt comprises a T-shaped end portion to engage against the first clamp member in use and to act as a pivot for pivotal movement of the bolt relative to the first clamp member.

30. (previously presented) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein at the end that receives the nut the bolt comprises a non-threaded portion to facilitate location of the nut onto the bolt.

31. (previously presented) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein the first and second clamp members are separate but pivotally engaged directly to each other in a snap-fit relation and wherein one of the first and second members comprises a resilient retention means and the other comprises a surface against which acts the retention means, and wherein it is easy to snap the first and second members into pivotal engagement but more difficult to disengage the first and second clamp members thereafter.

32. (cancelled)

33. (currently amended) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein the plastics material is glass-filled nylon.

34. (previously presented) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein further projections extend from the prongs and prevent overclosing of the clamp.

35. (currently amended) A nut and seat assembly for a clamp made of plastics material, comprising

- (i) a nut to be tightened onto a bolt; and
- (ii) a clamp member having a seat integrally formed thereon for the nut and an aperture defined by prongs so the bolt can be inserted laterally into the aperture and the nut can be tightened axially against the seat;

wherein the nut and seat mate directly in contact with each other and tightening of the nut onto the seat prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the bolt, wherein projections are provided on the seat and corresponding indentations are provided in the nut so as to mate the prongs to the nut when the nut and bolt are tightened.

36. (previously presented) The assembly of Claim 35, wherein tightening of the nut onto the seat pushes the prongs of the clamp member together and can tighten the prongs around the bolt.

37. (cancelled)

38. (previously presented) The assembly of Claim 35, wherein prongs of the clamp member form a U-shaped aperture such that in use a bolt can be inserted laterally into the open end of the aperture and the seat is formed from the sides of the prongs.

39. (cancelled)

40. (previously presented) The assembly of Claim 35, wherein the plastics material is glass-filled nylon.

41. (previously presented) The assembly of Claim 35, wherein further projections extend from the prongs and prevent overclosing of the clamp.

42. (previously presented) A clamp, having an upper member and lower member, to go around a pipe, a nut and a bolt,

wherein the bolt is separate from the lower clamp member and comprises a retention means and the lower clamp member comprises an aperture through which the

bolt passes such that when the bolt has been passed through the aperture removal of the bolt from the lower clamp member is resisted by the retention means, and

wherein the first and second clamp members are separate but pivotally engaged directly to each other in a snap-fit relation and wherein one of the first and second members comprises a resilient retention means and the other comprises a surface against which acts the retention means, and wherein it is easy to snap the first and second members into pivotal engagement but more difficult to disengage the first and second clamp members thereafter.

43. (previously presented) A pipe clamp made of plastics material, comprising a first part and a second part, each having first and second ends, wherein the first ends of each of said first and second parts are pivotally connected to allow the first and second parts to be opened for receiving a pipe, and a nut and bolt which can be tightened to secure the clamp on the pipe, the second end of one of said first and second parts having a bifurcation through which the bolt passes, wherein the second end having the bifurcation engages with the nut when it is tightened on the bolt so as to limit opening of the bifurcation, and wherein further projections extend from the second end of one of said first and second parts and prevent overclosing of the clamp.

44. (currently amended) A nut and seat assembly made of plastics material for a clamp made of plastics material, comprising

- (i) a nut to be tightened onto a bolt; and
- (ii) a clamp member having a seat integrally formed thereon for the nut and an aperture defined by prongs so the bolt can be inserted laterally into the aperture and the nut can be tightened axially against the seat;

wherein tightening of the nut onto the seat prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the bolt; and wherein projections are provided on the seat and corresponding indentations are provided in the nut so as to mate the prongs to the nut when the nut and bolt are tightened.

45. (currently amended) A clamp made of plastics material, for clamping pipework, comprising:

- a first clamp member;
- a second clamp member;
- a bolt; and
- a nut

such that when the first clamp member is attached to the second clamp member and the bolt is attached to the first clamp member the nut can be tightened onto the bolt so as to clamp pipework between the first and second clamp members,

wherein the second clamp member comprises an aperture defined by prongs and into which the bolt can be moved laterally, and tightening of the nut onto the second clamp member directly in contact therewith prevents splaying of the prongs; and wherein projections are provided on the seat and corresponding indentations are provided in the nut so as to mate the prongs to the nut when the nut and bolt are tightened.

46. (currently amended) A method of securing a clamp made of plastics material around a pipe, comprising:

locating an upper clamp member over the pipe;

locating a lower clamp member under the pipe, respective first ends of the clamp members being connected, optionally via a pivot, and a bolt being attached to the second end of one of the clamp members; and

tightening a nut onto the bolt so the nut engages with a seat on the second end of the other clamp member so as to close the clamp;

wherein the seat comprises prongs forming an open-sided aperture for the bolt and tightening the nut prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the bolt; [[and]]

tightening the nut onto the bolt so as to move the prongs inwards and tighten the prongs around the bolt; and wherein projections are provided on the seat and corresponding indentations are provided in the nut so as to mate the prongs to the nut when the nut and bolt are tightened.

47. (previously presented) A pipe clamp made of plastics material comprising at least first and second parts having a pivotal connection to allow the said at least first and second parts to be opened for receiving a pipe, and a nut and bolt which can be tightened to secure the clamp on the pipe, one of said parts having ends and having a bifurcation at one end through which the bolt passes, wherein said end mates directly with the nut when it is tightened on the bolt so as to limit opening of the bifurcation, and wherein a concave recess provided on an inside surface of the nut cooperates with a convex portion or portions on the end of the part through which the bolt passes so that tightening the bolt urges the bifurcation together.

48. (currently amended) A nut and seat assembly for a clamp made of plastics material, comprising

(i) a nut to be tightened onto a bolt; and

(ii) a clamp member having a seat for the nut and an aperture defined by prongs so the bolt can be inserted laterally into the aperture and the nut can be tightened axially against the seat;

wherein the nut and seat mate directly and tightening of the nut onto the seat prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the bolt; and

wherein the nut comprises ~~a mating surface~~ indentations at or towards a lower edge of the nut which co-operates with ~~[[a]]~~ corresponding ~~mating surface~~ projections on the seat so that as the nut is tightened onto the bolt action of the surfaces on each other prevents outward movement of the prongs ~~and/or~~ and pushes the prongs together and tightens them around the bolt.

49. (currently amended) A nut and seat assembly for a clamp made of plastics material, comprising

- (i) a nut to be tightened onto a bolt; and
- (ii) a clamp member having a seat for the nut and an aperture defined by prongs so the bolt can be inserted laterally into the aperture and the nut can be tightened axially against the seat;

wherein the nut and seat mate directly and tightening of the nut onto the seat prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the bolt; and

wherein the nut comprises ~~a mating surface~~ indentations at or towards a lower edge of the nut which co-operates with ~~[[a]]~~ corresponding ~~mating surface~~ projections on the seat so that as the nut is tightened onto the bolt action of the surfaces on each other prevents outward movement of the prongs.

50. (previously presented) The clamp of Claim 23, wherein said first clamp member comprises a cross-member for limiting pivotal movement of said bolt relative to said first clamp member.

51. (previously presented) The clamp of Claim 45, wherein said first clamp member comprises a cross-member for limiting pivotal movement of said bolt relative to said first clamp member.